

For Release:
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Media Contact:
Jana Kettering
Public Information Officer
801-538-6339

New Health Advisory Council Marks Day 200 of the Utah Department of Health's 1,000 Day Plan

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Thursday, August 22 is **Day 200** of the Utah Department of Health's 1,000 Day Plan and the first meeting of its new Health Advisory Council (HAC). The nine-member council was appointed by Governor Leavitt and will assist the Department in strategic direction. The HAC will assist the Executive Director's Office in setting Department priorities and advising on budget and policy issues. Dr. George White, PhD., has been appointed Chair of the Council. He is the Director of the Public Health Program at the University of Utah School of Medicine and holds a tenured professorship in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. Under Dr. White's leadership, U.S. News and World Report ranked the University's public health program 3rd best in the nation two years in a row.

Council appointees were selected based on the statute requirements, which include having an interest in or knowledge of public health, environmental health, health planning, health care financing or health care delivery systems. Geographic, ethnic, political party and gender balance were considered in the appointments. The all-volunteer Council will meet quarterly. The Council previously existed until 1993 when the Health Policy Commission was created. The Health Policy Commission's authority ran from 1994 and was sunset in 2000. Following the end of the Commission, the Department began discussions with Governor Leavitt, local health departments and advocacy groups, etc., to reinstate the Council's advisory role. "We need the Council to be reconstituted to bring more community perspective to the table as we make difficult policy and budget decisions," said Rod Betit, Executive Director, UDOH. The first Council meeting is Thursday, August 22 at 1 p.m. at 288 North 1460 West in the Martha Hughes Cannon Building in Room 125.

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Members of the UDOH's Health Advisory Council Include:

Chair, **George L. White, Jr.**, PhD, Salt Lake City
Director of Public Health Programs, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine,
University of Utah

Marian F. Bishop, PhD, MSPH, Salt Lake City
Professor and Chair Emerita, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of
Utah

Jane Reister Conard, Salt Lake City
Senior Counsel at IHC and former Salt Lake Valley Health Department Board of Health
Chair

John P. Holmgren, Bear River City
Former Senator/Chairman of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee

Robert P. Huefner, Salt Lake City
Director, Governor Scott M. Matheson Center for Health Care Studies, University of Utah

John C. Nelson, MD, Salt Lake City
OB/Gyn at Mountain West OB-Gyn and former UDOH Deputy Director

Diana L. Sagers, Tooele
Homemaker with an interest in public health

Jesse M. Soriano, Bountiful
Professor, University of Utah, Ethnic Health

John S. Williams, St. George
Five County Association of Governments

In January's State of the State address Governor Leavitt proposed a 1,000 Day economic plan to renew the state's economic momentum. Under that plan are separate state agency 1,000 Day Plans. The Utah Department of Health's (UDOH) plan fits the "Invest in People" 1,000 Day Plan strategy. The creation of the Council is just one of the many 1,000 Day Plan Milestones the Department of Health has achieved this year. Please see the attached list of UDOH Milestones. The list is also available on the web at www.health.utah.gov.

Attachment: 4 pages, UDOH Milestones

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